Message Text

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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UNCLAS HONG KONG 1414

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: BEXP, HK

SUBJECT: GLOBAL MARKET RESEARCH: BUSINESS EQUIPMENT

AND SYSTEMS

REF: USDOC 1868

- 1. LOCAL BIDDERS ON STUDIES OF AUSTRALIAN, JAPANESE AND TAIWAN MARKETS, AS USUAL, VERY INTERESTED IN WHO WAS SUCCESSFUL BIDDER AND HOW MUCH WORK WAS OFFERED FOR HOW MUCH MONEY. SUCH INFORMATION WOULD ASSIST LOCAL FIRMS IN FORMULATING PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH
- 2. ALTHOUGH WE VERY HAPPY WITH MOBIUS RESEARCH AND FEEL HE OFFERS EXCELLENT VALUE FOR PRICES HE BIDS, WE FORESEE SOME DIFFICULTY IN CONTINUING TO PERSUADE OTHER LOCAL RESEARCH FIRMS TO BID. TRANS-MARKET RESEARCH (TMR) AND P.A. MANAGEMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, BID ON SUBJECT STUDY AT COMPETITIVE PRICES ONLY AFTER VERY CONSIDERABLE EFFORT BY COMMERCIAL OFFICER. THEIR ATTITUDE WAS "WHY BOTHER IF MOBIUS WILL WIN ANYWAY", AND SAME HOLDS GENERALLY TRUE FOR OTHER BIDDERS. TMR, WHICH WAS OUR RECOMMENDATION FOR HONG KONG STUDY, IS COMPETENT, EXPERIENCED, AMERICAN-OWNED FIRM WHICH HAS DONE SEVERAL STUDIES FOR U.S.I.S. AND, UNDER PREVIOUS NAME OF GRANT RESEARCH, ONE STUDY FOR U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. WE UNDERSTAND BUDGETARY DIFFICULTIES BUT BELIEVE THAT OUR LONG TERM INTERESTS UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT WELL SERVED BY WHAT IS EFFECTIVELY SINGLE SOURCING FOR OUR

RESEARCH NEEDS.

3. ALTHOUGH LOCAL FIRMS FREQUENTLY BID ON STUDIES IN JAPAN THEY HAVE NOT BEEN AWARDED ANY CONTRACTS FOR SUCH RESEARCH EVEN THOUGH LOCAL PROPOSALS APPEAR COMPETITIVE. IS POLICY NOT TO AWARD RESEARCH TO FIRMS NOT RESIDENT IN JAPAN? IF SO, WE WILL DISCOURAGE FUTURE BIDS FOR THIS RESEARCH. CROSS

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